

COLLEGE PORTFOLIO

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION



MDHETM

Missouri Department of Higher Education

*Building Missouri's future...
by degrees[®]*





Use this portfolio as a convenient place to store all college records and financial aid documents.

Tab 1: Missouri College Application Week documents

- College fit worksheet
- Student Admissions Application Worksheet
- Admissions application(s) printouts
- Fee payment or fee waiver information

Tab 2: FAFSA Frenzy/College Goal Missouri

- FAFSA submission confirmation printouts
- Financial aid award letters
- Scholarship letters and applications
- Other records

Tab 3: Student Loans

- Loan servicer information
- Repayment disclosures and schedules
- Entrance and exit counseling confirmation

Tab 4: Correspondence and forms

- Copies of student loan deferment forms
- Copies of correspondence with your loan servicer
- Any other forms or documents

Tab 5: Publications & Resources

- MDHE publications
- Other helpful reference materials

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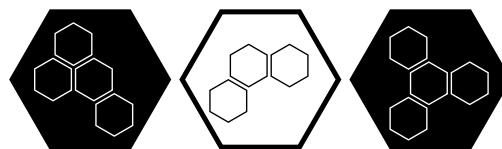


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Top 10 ways to graduate DEBT FREE

1. Complete the FAFSA annually
2. Seek paid internship opportunities
3. Apply for state scholarship and grant programs
4. Apply for institutional scholarships
5. Explore private scholarships
6. Inquire about work programs available on your campus
7. Set up a payment plan for your tuition
8. Secure summer employment
9. Invest in MOST, Missouri's 529 college savings plan
10. Live like a college student now, so you don't have to later

**Store documents in this section
related to your school exploration
and choices, college admissions
applications and admittance letters**



Stay on top of postsecondary institution
applications and deadlines.

Admission application confirmation — upon submitting admissions applications online, print and file the confirmation page.

College acceptance letters — store your acceptance letters behind tab #1.

Change of Personal Data — should be completed when there are updates to your personal information, such as a parent's name, permanent address, work information and Social Security number.

Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act — enables you to have some control over the disclosure of information in your educational records.

Internship Request — must be filed to complete an internship for college credit.

Registration and enrollment information — maintain copies of each semester's class schedule.

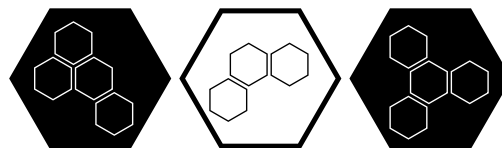
The process of applying to college can be daunting, especially for students who are the first in their family to attend college, who are low-income students, or who are members of groups historically underrepresented in higher education. If any of these sound like you, you may need some help navigating the college application process.

If your high school participates in Missouri College Application Week, you can take advantage of hands-on assistance submitting one or more admissions applications. MCAW can also help students decide which colleges best meet their needs.

To learn more about Missouri College Application Week, visit **www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/students/CollegeApplicationWeek.php**



FAFSA confirmation, verification records, tax transcripts



You should submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 each year. Most schools have an application deadline early in the spring for the upcoming academic year. Be sure to check with the school you plan to attend about their specific deadlines and procedures. Remember, your FAFSA must be filed by April 1 to be considered for the Access Missouri program.

FAFSA Contact Information www.fafsa.gov

Toll-Free Phone Number:
800-4-FED-AID or 800-433-3243

TTY Users:
800-730-8913

Email Address:
FederalStudentAidCustomerService@ed.gov

Mailing Address:
Federal Student Aid Programs
P.O. Box 7002
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0072

FAFSA Procedures

Both students and at least one parent, for dependent students, should apply

for a Federal Student Aid PIN at **www.pin.ed.gov**. A Federal Student Aid PIN is a four-digit electronic identifier that allows students and parents to access and electronically sign federal student aid documents and records.

The first step in applying for most financial assistance programs is to complete and submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**.

Once your FAFSA is processed, you may receive or be asked to provide the following documents:

- **FAFSA Verification** - you may be asked by your school to provide documentation verifying that the information you submitted on your FAFSA is correct
- **Financial aid award letters** - from

your school indicating the type(s) and amount(s) of financial aid for which you are eligible

- **Student employment** - maintain copies of information about a Federal Work-Study or on-campus job
- **Tax transcript** - your school may request a copy of this line-by-line report summarizing your or your parents' Internal Revenue Service account

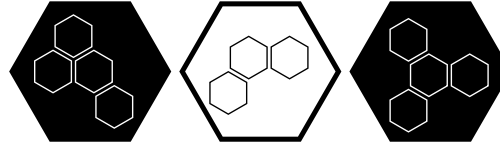
The Missouri Department of Higher Education's "College Portfolio" can be used to store the following documents:

- Cashier receipts
- Class add-drop forms
- eServices or online account sign-up
- Refund documents
- Scholarship renewals
- Veterans educational benefits
- 1098T tax information



Financial aid processes may seem confusing and complex, especially for students who are the first in their family to attend college, who are homeless or foster youth, or who are members of groups historically underrepresented in higher education. If any of these sound like you, you may realize you could use some help submitting your Free Application for Federal Student Aid through FAFSA Frenzy. Financial aid professionals will be on hand to help in January, February, and March at locations throughout the state. To see a complete list of FAFSA Frenzy locations, visit **www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/fafsa_completion.php**. FAFSA Frenzy is a program of College Goal Missouri.

Loan servicer information, repayment disclosures and schedules, and other documents



Minimize your student loan debt! For additional tips on managing your student loan debt, refer to www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/studentloans/debtmanagement.php.

- If your outstanding balance falls below the loan amount you initially planned to borrow, return all remaining funds to your lender to reduce the amount you'll owe when your grace period ends.
- Be sure you understand the effects of interest.

Principal balance is the original amount you borrowed, plus any capitalized interest.

Capitalized interest is unpaid, accrued interest that is added to the principal balance. When interest is capitalized, the total debt increases.

Accrued interest is calculated on your unpaid principal balance each day.

For more information on managing your federal student loans, visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans>.

LOAN RECORD	Type of Loan	Loan Amount	Loan Date	Disbursed Amount	Canceled Amount	Outstanding Principal	Outstanding Interest
TOTAL Stafford Unsubsidized			<p>Once you have borrowed a federal student loan, use the National Student Loan Data System at www.nslds.ed.gov to access your student loan account and determine your total debt. You may also retrieve this information by calling 800-4-FED-AID. You will need your Federal Student Aid PIN (www.pin.ed.gov) to access your NSLDS records.</p>				
TOTAL Stafford Subsidized							
TOTAL Parent PLUS							
TOTAL Graduate PLUS							
TOTAL Perkins							
TOTAL Private (Will not appear on NSLDS)							
TOTAL ALL LOANS							

Copies of correspondence, deferment forms and other related materials



Stay in touch with the loan servicer! If you think you're going to miss a payment, contact your loan servicer immediately.

Assistance is available!

Refer to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans>.

Deferment — period of time during which you are allowed to postpone payments. Interest on subsidized loans will be paid by the U.S. Department of Education if you qualify for a deferment.

Forbearance — period of time when your lender allows you to temporarily reduce or postpone your payments. Interest will accrue on both subsidized and unsubsidized loans while you are in forbearance.

Forgiveness, Cancellation and Discharge — the release of a borrower's obligation to repay all or part of a loan.

Loan Consolidation — the combining of one or more qualifying, outstanding student loans into one new loan with new terms. Generally, this results in lower monthly payments but greater total interest costs.

Loan Servicers — private companies that are contracted with the USDE to handle student loan processing. For a complete list of loan servicing centers, visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/understand/servicers>.

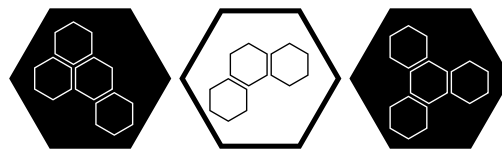
Repayment Plans — an agreement that outlines how money will be paid back. For an overview of federal student loan repayment plans, visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans>.

Don't Default! — when you sign your promissory note and receive your loan, you are making a legal commitment to repay the loan. If, in the future, you fail to make payments, your loan could go into default. There are serious consequences for defaulting on a federal student loan:

- Damage to your credit rating
- Garnishment of your wages
- Withholding of your state or Federal Treasury payments (including tax refunds, Social Security benefits, etc.)
- Loss of professional licenses
- Civil lawsuit, with liability for court costs and/or legal expenses
- Loss of deferment entitlements and flexible repayment options
- Loss of eligibility for further financial aid
- Referral of your account to a collection agency, with liability for collection costs
- Requirement to pay the loan(s) in full
- Denial of employment by a government agency
- Hold placed on your official college transcript



MDHE publications and helpful resources



Use this section of your "College Portfolio" folder to keep important publications at your fingertips for quick reference.

PUBLICATIONS

The Missouri Department of Higher Education provides a variety of publications about financial assistance, debt management, and financial literacy free of charge. To request an MDHE publication, please visit www.dhe.mo.gov/publications.html or call 800-473-6757.

"Never Too Early: College Prep Starts Now" — a planning guide equipped with strategies to help prepare students for a successful college experience, from kindergarten to high school.

"Online MDHE" — an overview of the MDHE electronic resources highlighting the features most useful to students and families planning and paying for college.

"Planning for Financial Success" — a handy calendar for students in college or heading off to college, complete with financial literacy and money management tips to help guide them through the year. The publication also includes stickers to help customize college-related deadlines.

"Preparing For College" — a 7x4 inch magnet for high school seniors, featuring an academic year calendar of college and financial aid timelines.

"Smart About Spending" — a three-ring binder equipped with color-coded materials that cover all four competencies outlined in the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's curriculum for personal finance.

"The Source" — a comprehensive guide designed to serve as the premier go-to resource for students in search of federal and state grants, scholarships, loans, and assistance with filling out the Free Application for Federal Financial Assistance.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Develop a Financial Plan — Learn how to create smart money habits to better manage your finances. <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/studentloans/financialliteracy.php>

Missouri Grants and Scholarships — Designed to assist undergraduate Missouri students pay for college. www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/

Monthly Student Reminder — Sign up to receive resources for higher education opportunities as well as guidance for obtaining state and federal financial assistance. www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/reminders2.php

Preparing for College Checklists — Review the recommended Core Curriculum to stay on track while in high school. www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/preparingforcollege.php

College and Degree Search — With so many choices available, our College and Degree Search lets you zero in on just the school you're looking for. Search by programs offered, school type, degree type, or location. <http://collegesearch.mo.gov/>

Scholarship Search Tips — Get helpful pointers on how to find and apply for private scholarships. www.dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/scholarshipsearchtips.php

Student Portal — Designed to be a single point of contact for information about state student aid, links to resources about preparing for and enrolling in postsecondary education, and access to helpful MDHE services and tools for students and families. <https://web.dhe.mo.gov/dhe/famous/portal/splogin.faces>

Webinars and More — This Web page is your central location for viewing videos created by the Missouri Department of Higher Education. All videos can be viewed on the MDHE's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/MOHigherEducation>.



For more helpful advice about preparing for college, like Journey to College on Facebook (www.facebook.com/journeystocollege) or follow Journey to College via Twitter (www.twitter.com/Journey2College). Journey to College shares scholarship opportunities, Missouri state aid and student loan information, and all the latest news related to preparing for your postsecondary education.

DEAN WILSON



“I want to succeed, and I feel like college is the best road for me.”

—Dean Wilson, St. Louis, Missouri

Dean Wilson views a college education as an excellent option for his future and credits his parents with providing the motivational support needed to achieve his educational goals. Dean’s academic record and ongoing participation in several extracurricular activities, including baseball, Future Business Leaders of America and soccer, all aided tremendously in the college application process. Dean plans to use the Missouri Department of Higher Education’s “College Portfolio” to store institutional, federal and state aid documents, such as Student Aid Reports (SARs), transcripts, admissions applications, scholarship applications, award letters, Master Promissory Notes and more.

